

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for notifying an electronic billing vendor of customer status changes comprising:
 - (a) flagging entries, in an update file, that correspond to electronic billing customers;
 - (b) searching the update file for flagged entries that indicate an account change;
 - (c) reformatting the flagged entries that indicate account changes; and
 - (d) transmitting the reformatted flagged entries that indicate account changes to the electronic billing vendor.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the update file stores one entry for each service order activity.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the entries are placed in the update file at an interval.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein searching the update file looks first for the flagged entries, and looks second for the account changes among the flagged entries.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein searching the update file looks first for entries indicating account changes, and looks second for the flagged entries among the entries indicating account changes.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein reformatting the flagged entries that indicate account changes translates the flagged entries that indicate account changes into a record format required by the electronic billing vendor.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the record format includes data selected from the group consisting essentially of date of activity, customer contact information, old account number, new account number, and action.

a' 8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the action is an activity selected from the group consisting essentially of delete, change, and activate.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the flagged entries that indicate account changes to the electronic billing vendor occurs through a network using file transfer protocol.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the account changes are selected from the group consisting essentially of an account termination and an account number change.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer system for notifying an electronic billing vendor of customer status changes comprising:

(a) a database including an update file, wherein the update file is adapted to store service order activities;

(b) a search application module in communication with the database update file, wherein the search application module searches the service order activities for entries that correspond both to customers of the electronic billing vendor and to service order activities that affect account numbers;

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(c) a format application module in communication with the search application module, wherein the format application module places the entries in a format compatible with the electronic billing vendor; and

(d) a communication application module in communication with the format application module, wherein the communication application module transmits the entries through a network to the electronic billing vendor.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the format compatible with the electronic billing vendor includes data selected from the group consisting essentially of date of activity, customer contact information, old account number, new account number, and action.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the action is an activity selected from the group consisting essentially of account deletion, account change, and account activation.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the database update file, the search application module, the format application module, and the communication application module are provisioned with a merchant system.

15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 11, wherein the search application module, the format application module, and the communication application module are a single application module.

16. (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein the update file is generated by a customer billing system and is transmitted from the customer billing system to a customer information database.

Q1 17. (Original) A method for notifying an electronic billing vendor of customer status changes comprising:

- (a) changing customer services;
- (b) recording the changed services in a customer billing system;
- (c) flagging the changed services if the changed services involve an electronic billing customer;
- (d) downloading a period of the changed services to an update file;
- (e) searching the update file for flagged changed services that affect account numbers;
- (f) copying the flagged changed services that affect account numbers into a notification file;

(g) formatting the notification file into a format used by the electronic billing vendor;
and

(h) making the formatted notification file available to the electronic billing vendor.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the format used by the electronic billing vendor comprises data selected from the group consisting essentially of date of activity, customer contact information, old account number, new account number, and action.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein changed services that affect account numbers are account terminations and account number changes.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the period is daily.

21. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein making the notification file available comprises transmitting the notification file through a network.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the network is the Internet and the notification file is transmitted through a firewall.

23. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein searching the update file comprises looking for the flagged changed services first if the flagged changed services are fewer than changed services that affect account numbers, and looking for the changed services that affect account numbers first if the changed services that affect account numbers are fewer than the flagged changed services.

24. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein downloading further comprises transmitting the update file from the customer billing system to a customer information database, and searching the update file occurs while the update file is being transmitted.

25. (Currently Amended) An application for notifying an electronic billing vendor of customer status changes comprising:

(a) a file of service order activities;

a (b) a search ~~function~~ application that searches the service order activities for entries corresponding both to electronic billing customers and account changes that affect account numbers;

(c) a format ~~function~~ application that translates the entries from a first record format to a second record format; and

(d) a communication ~~function~~ application that transmits the entries to the electronic billing vendor.

26. (Currently Amended) The application of claim 25, wherein the file provides indicators for service order activities corresponding to electronic billing customers and provides indicators for service order activities corresponding to account changes that affect account numbers, and wherein the search ~~function~~ application searches for the indicators.

27. (Original) The application of claim 25, wherein the first record format is compatible with the file and the second record format is compatible with the electronic billing vendor.

28. (Original) The application of claim 25, wherein the communication application uses file transfer protocol over a network.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer system for notifying an electronic billing vendor of customer status changes comprising:

a' (a) a first database including an update file, wherein the update file is adapted to store service order activities;

(b) a search application module in communication with the first database update file, wherein the search application module searches the service order activities for entries that correspond both to customers of the electronic billing vendor and to service order activities that affect account numbers;

(c) a format application module in communication with the search application module, wherein the format application module places the entries in a format compatible with the electronic billing vendor;

(d) a communication application module in communication with the format application module, wherein the communication application module transmits the entries through a network to the electronic billing vendor;

(e) a second communication application module in communication with the network, wherein the second communication application module receives the entries;

(f) an account update application module in communication with the second communication application module, wherein the account update application module reads the entries and matches the entries to existing electronic billing accounts;

(g) an electronic billing account database in communication with the updated application module, wherein the electronic billing account database stores the electronic billing accounts; and

a (h) a web application module in communication with the electronic billing account database, wherein the web application module accesses the electronic billing accounts to post billing information on a website.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 29, wherein the second communication application module, the account update application module, the electronic billing account database, and the web application module are provisioned with the electronic billing vendor system.

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 29, wherein the communication application module, the account update application module, and the web application module are a single application module.

32. (Original) A method for notifying an electronic billing vendor of customer status changes comprising:

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- (a) flagging entries in an update file corresponding to electronic billing customers;
 - (b) searching the update file for flagged entries that indicate an account change;
 - (c) reformatting the flagged entries that indicate account changes;
 - (d) transmitting the reformatted flagged entries that indicate account changes to the electronic billing vendor;
 - (e) reading account numbers associated with the flagged entries that indicate account changes;
 - (f) matching the account numbers to electronic billing account numbers in an electronic billing account database of the electronic billing vendor; and
 - (g) updating the electronic billing account numbers with information from the flagged entries that indicate account changes.
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